

Resources to Help with Transition Planning



Adapted April 2018 for the STEP's Transition Academy

Revised May 2020



Council on
Developmental Disabilities



What's Out There to Help Me?

1. Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal and state-funded program providing services to help individuals with disabilities enter or return to employment. It is designed to assist individuals of work age with physical and/or mental disabilities compete successfully with others in earning a livelihood.

The VR program offers numerous services to eligible clients. To be eligible for VR, a person must meet specific guidelines related to a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial barrier to employment.

Individuals determined eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services work closely with a VR Counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) which outlines a program of services that leads to successful employment.

The types of services provided are based on the needs of the individual and are designed to help the individual to become employable. Vocational rehabilitation staff will assess needs in order to determine an appropriate employment objective and provide appropriate services. Certain services depend upon the individual meeting economic need guidelines, while other services may be provided without regard to economic need.

- Diagnosis
- Counseling & Guidance
- Treatment
- Training
- Maintenance & Transportation
- Special Emphasis Programs
- Transition Services from School to Work
- Personal Care Assistance Program (continued)
- Rehabilitation Technology Services
- Job Placement
- Pre- Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Post-Employment Services

Supported Employment: Supported employment is a Vocational Rehabilitation service delivery model that provides services for persons with the most significant disabilities who have not normally been able to participate in work that can lead to competitive employment in integrated work settings. The unique feature of Supported Employment is the ongoing support it provides to individuals to help them maintain employment.

For more information contact:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Citizens Plaza State Office Building, 12th floor
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1403
Telephone: (615) 313-4891
TTY: (615) 313-5695 TTY (Long Distance): 1-800-270-1349
FAX: (615) 741-6508

See more at <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/vocational-rehabilitation.html>

Tennessee Rehabilitation Center at Smyrna (TRC)

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) at Smyrna is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility and is one of eight such facilities in the nation. Services are provided on campus and the majority of clients live on campus in residential living units while receiving services. Length of programs of service offered at TRC vary depending upon the individual client's interest, abilities, and needs. All program participants must be eligible clients of the Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services.

TRC is located in Middle Tennessee within the city limits of Smyrna and provides community-based services for clients throughout the state of Tennessee. The center offers comprehensive programs in six primary areas. Numerous support services are provided in conjunction with primary programs, all of which are designed to prepare clients for employment.

The mission of the TRC is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment to people with disabilities. Services provided assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible. Graduation is a highlight of our clients' program at TRC. This memorable event is a final step for clients as they prepare to enter the world of work.

If you are interested in TRC and the services it offers, contact a local vocational rehabilitation counselor in your home community or contact the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center for information about admissions.

For information on comprehensive programs, contact:

Tennessee Rehabilitation Center
460 Ninth Avenue
Smyrna, TN 37167
Phone numbers: (615) 459-6811
FAX (615) 355-1373

See more at <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/trc-smyrna.html>

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a nationally acclaimed model for transitioning students with intellectual and developmental disabilities from high school into employment. Prior to 2014, four Project SEARCH programs (three Adult Learning Programs and one High School Transition Program) existed at Vanderbilt Hospital, Montgomery County Government, University of Tennessee Medical Center, and East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

In 2014, the Tennessee Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation Program and the Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council partnered to develop a relationship with Project SEARCH and expand the program across Tennessee.

Through a 3-year pilot program with Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the home of Project SEARCH, five additional programs have opened and extensive training and technical assistance have been provided to all nine programs. (continued)

For more information, visit <https://www.projectsearch.us/transition-to-work/>

2. Tennessee's American Job Centers (Career Centers)

The Tennessee Career Center System was designed with valuable input from businesses and private industry statewide. The result is a system able to provide maximum workforce results from one convenient location.

Tennessee American Job Centers are where people and jobs connect. Tennessee has a network of centers across the state where employers can go to find the workers they need and job seekers can get assistance and career information. Each center offers computerized labor market information, internet access, workshops, and an online talent bank, in addition to job placement, recruitment, and training referrals.

In a changing economy, it's not always easy to find a job that matches your skills. But it gets a lot easier when you have a partner who can help you. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, through its Career Center System, has over 80 locations across the state that can work with you in a variety of ways. They've helped thousands of Tennesseans find new jobs, most with salaries equal to or higher than their previous jobs.

The Right Information

It starts with Job Listings in your area and across the state. But that's just the beginning. They also have extensive Labor Market Information on which occupations are the fastest growing, and that may help you start down a whole new career path.

The Right Approach

The difference between looking for a job and getting one is often your approach. They can help you prepare by offering workshops on such topics as writing a better resume, improving business communications, development network skills, and making a good impression at interviews.

The Right Training and Education

As the job market changes, your skills need to keep up. The American Job Centers can help you find the training or education that leads to a new and better career. It may be getting your GED, improving your English or moving on to higher education or training in specific job skills. They also have the information on courses and financial assistance which may be available.

The Right Price

Free. Both the Career Center and online services are free. All 95 Tennessee counties are served by a Career Center with qualified staff. Career Centers are open 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday

Job Seeker Services

Computer Workstations

All Tennessee Career Centers offer computers with Internet access. Use the Jobs4TN Online Web site to create and post a résumé online for exposure to major Tennessee employers screening for employees. Search for jobs by different criteria, e.g., most recently posted, location, salary. Find data on in-demand occupations and training opportunities.

Access to Employers

Career Center staff can refer you to employers who have open positions for which you qualify. Often Career Centers host hiring events and job fairs for specific employers. Staff can help you prepare for interviews and arrange for you to apply.

Skills Training

Several types of training are available through the Career Center:

- On-site workshops are conducted on honing résumé writing, how to search for work, and interviewing.
- Staff can refer job seekers to Adult Education classes to refresh math, writing, and reading comprehension in order to earn a GED. (continued)
- Job applicants can earn Career Readiness Certificates – assessment-based credentials based on ACT WorkKeys that give employers and career seekers a uniform measure of basic workplace skills.

For more information and more the location of the career center nearest you, visit:
<https://www.tn.gov/workforce/jobs-and-education/job-search1/find-local-american-job-center.html>

3. Tennessee Universities, Community Colleges, and Colleges of Applied Technology

Universities

Austin Peay State University

601 College Street
Clarksville, TN 37044
Telephone: 931-221-7011
Toll-Free: 800-844-2778

East Tennessee State University

University Parkway and W. Walnut Street
Johnson City, TN 37614
Telephone: 423-439-1000
Toll-Free: 800-462-3878

Middle Tennessee State University

1301 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Telephone: 615-898-2300
Toll-Free in Tennessee: 1-800-331-MTSU

Tennessee State University

3500 John Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209-1561
Telephone: 615-963-5000
Toll Free: 888-536-7655 (continued)

Tennessee Technological University

1 William Jones Drive
Cookeville, TN 38505
Telephone: 931-372-3101
Toll-Free: 800-255-8881

University of Memphis

Central and Patterson
Memphis, TN 38152
Telephone: 901-678-2000
Toll-Free: 800-669-2678

University of Tennessee

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
320 Student Services Building
Knoxville, TN 37996
Telephone: 865-974-111

University of Tennessee Martin

554 University Street
Martin, TN 38237
Telephone: 731-881-7000
Toll-Free: 800-829-UTM1

University of Tennessee Chattanooga

615 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37403
Telephone: 423-425-111

Community Colleges

Chattanooga State Community College

4501 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406
Telephone: 423-697-4400
Toll-Free: 877-398-2545

Cleveland State Community College

3535 Adkisson Drive
Cleveland, TN 37312
Telephone: 423-472-7141
Toll-Free: 800-604-2722 (

Columbia State Community College

1665 Hampshire Highway
Columbia, TN 38401
Telephone: 931-540-2722
Toll-Free: 877-469-8720

Dyersburg State Community College

1510 Lake Road
Dyersburg, TN 38024
Telephone: 731-286-3200

Jackson State Community College
2046 North Parkway
Jackson, TN 38301
Telephone: 731-424-3520
Toll-Free: 800-355-JSCC

Motlow State Community College
P.O. Box 8500
Lynchburg, TN 37352-8500
Telephone: 931-393-1500
Toll-Free: 800-654-4877

Nashville State Community College
120 White Bridge Road
Nashville, TN 37209
Telephone: 615-353-3333
Toll-Free: 800-272-7363

Northeast State Community College
2425 Highway 75
Blountville, TN 37617
Telephone: 423-323-3191
Toll-Free: 800-836-7822

Pellissippi State Community College
10915 Hardin Valley Road
Mailing address: P.O. Box 22990
Knoxville, TN 37933-0990
Telephone: 865-694-6400

Roane State Community College
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748
Telephone: 865-354-3000
Toll-Free: 800-343-9104, ext. 4523

Southwest Tennessee
Community College
P.O. Box 780
Memphis, TN 38101-0780
Telephone: 902-333-STCC
Toll-Free: 877-717-STCC

Volunteer State Community College
1480 Nashville Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
Telephone: 615-452-8600

Walters State Community College
500 S. Davy Crockett Parkway
Morristown, TN 37813-6899
Telephone: 423-585-2600
Toll-Free: 800-225-4770

4. Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) (formerly the Technology Centers)

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology serve as the premier suppliers of workforce development throughout the State of Tennessee. The Colleges fulfill their mission by:

- Providing competency-based training through superior quality, traditional and distance learning instruction methods that qualify completers for employment and job advancement;
- Contributing to the economic and community development of the communities served by training and retraining employed workers;
- Ensuring that programs and services are economical and accessible to all residents of Tennessee; and
- Building relationships of trust with community, business, and industry leaders to supply highly skilled workers in areas of need.

TCAT Purpose and Objective

The goal of the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) is to provide technical training to students to meet the occupational needs of employers in our community. Individualized instruction is utilized to the maximum in most programs. School policy provides that a student may enter a program when a vacancy occurs, start training at their own level and progress at their own rate to the level desired within the limitations of the school. Individualized instruction provides the student with the highest quality instruction possible in the occupational area of their choosing.

Athens

P.O. Box 848
Athens, TN 37371-0848
423-744-2814

Chattanooga

4501 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406
423-697-4433

Covington

P.O. Box 249
Covington, TN 38019
Telephone: 901-475-2526

Crossville

P.O. Box 2959
Crossville, TN 38555
Telephone: 931-484-7502

Crump

PO Box 89
Crump, TN 38327
Telephone: 731-632-3393

Dickson

740 Highway 46
Dickson, TN 37055
615-441-6220

Elizabethton

P.O. Box 789
Elizabethton, TN 37643
Telephone: 423-543-0070

Harriman

1745 Harriman Highway
Harriman, TN 37748
865-882-6703

Hartsville

716 McMurry Blvd.
Hartsville, TN 37074
615-374-2147

Hohenwald

813 West Main Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462
931-796-5351

Jacksboro

P.O. Box 419
Jacksboro, TN 37757
423-566-9629

Jackson

2468 Technology Center Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
731-424-0691

Knoxville

1100 Liberty Street
Knoxville, TN 37919
865-546-5568

Livingston

P.O. Box 219
Livingston, TN 38570
931-823-5525

McKenzie

16940 Highland Ave
McKenzie, TN 38201
731-352-5364

McMinnville

241 Vo-Tech Drive
McMinnville, TN 37110
931-474-8324

Memphis
550 Alabama Avenue
Memphis, TN 38105
901-543-6100

Morristown
821 W. Louise Avenue
Morristown, TN 37813-2094
423-586-5771

Murfreesboro
1303 Old Fort Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615-898-8010

Nashville
100 White Bridge Road
Nashville, TN 37209
615-425-5500

Newbern
340 Washington Street
Newbern, TN 37209
731-627-2511

Oneida/Huntsville
355 Scott High Drive
Huntsville, TN 37756
423-663-4900

Paris
312 South Wilson
Paris, TN 38242
731-644-7365

Pulaski
P.O. Box 614
Pulaski, TN 38478
931-424-4014

Ripley
126 Industrial Drive
Ripley, TN 38063
731-635-3368

Shelbyville
1405 Madison Street
Shelbyville, TN 37160
931-685-5013

Whiteville
P.O. Box 489
Whiteville, TN 38075
731-254-8521

For more information, visit <https://tnecampus.org/tennessee-colleges-applied-technology-tcats>

5. Tennessee Technology Access Centers

Mid-South Access Center for Technology

University of Memphis
530 Patterson Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38152
Telephone: (901) 678-1489
TTY: (901) 678-1318
Fax: (901) 678-3215
E-Mail: act@memphis.edu
Website: <http://act.memphis.edu>

The STAR Center

1119 Old Humboldt Road
Jackson, TN 38305
Phone: 731-668-3888
Fax: 731-668-1666
Email: infostar@starcenter.tn.org
Website: <http://www.starcenter.tn.org>

Technology Access Center

475 Metroplex Drive, Suite 301
Nashville, TN 37211
Phone/TTY: 615-248-6733
Toll-Free: 800-368-4651
Fax: 615-259-2536
E-Mail: techaccess@tacnashville.org
Website: <http://www.tacnashville.org>

Signal Centers Assistive Technology Center

2300 Bailey Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone: 423-698-8528, Ext. 501
Fax: 423-624-1365
E-Mail: Lana_Little@signalcenters.org
Website: <http://www.signalcenters.org/assistive-technology-services>

Spark (formerly East Tennessee Technology Access Center (ETTAC))

116 Childress Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37920
Telephone/TTY: 865-219-0130
Fax: 865-219-0137
Email: visitor@sparktn.org
Website: <http://www.sparktn.org/>

For more information, visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/ds/office-locator-trc-ttap.html>

6. Offices of Disability Services (ODS)

The Offices of Disability Services (ODS) assists students with documented disabilities by determining their eligibility for services and then working with students to determine reasonable accommodations and services which will, in turn, give the student equal access to the University.

It is important for students to remember that it is their responsibility to request disability services in the post-secondary setting, and they can start the process here at ODS.

The mission of the ODS is to partner with the campus community in creating equitable access for eligible students while promoting disability-inclusive diversity.

ODS accomplishes this mission by coordinating reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, such as:

- ADHD
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Blind / Low Vision
- Chronic Health
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- Learning Disabilities
- Mobility
- Psychological / Mental Health
- Traumatic or Acquired Brain Injury

Getting Registered with an ODS

Once a student is **admitted** to most colleges or universities, he or she should contact the Office of Disability Services. **Please note, even if students received accommodations in high school based on an IEP or a 504 plan, they are not automatically determined eligible for services at the college level.**

7. Post-Secondary College Programs for students who graduate without a regular high school diploma

Access ETSU

ETSU offers students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) access to a college experience similar to their same age peers. Typical high school students graduate high school around age 18 and go to college or find a job. Students with ID/DD, however, often remain in public school settings until they are 21 or 22. ETSU is proud to offer a different option for these students--an option that provides access to campus life, post-secondary education and training, a personalized curriculum, and increased employment opportunities.

Access ETSU
Clemmer College
P319 Warf-Pickel Hall | PO Box 70685
Johnson City, TN 37614
Website: <https://www.etsu.edu/coe/access/default.php>
Phone: 423.439.7626
Fax: 423.439.7560

Next Steps at Vanderbilt University

Next Steps at Vanderbilt University is a 2-year non-residential certification program for students with intellectual disabilities. It provides individualized Programs of Study in the areas of education, social skills, and vocational training.

Its mission is to provide transformational learning experiences, within an inclusive educational setting, for young adults with intellectual disabilities, university students, and faculty, staff, and community leaders.

Next Steps at Vanderbilt University
Box 228 Peabody
Nashville, TN 37203
Website: <https://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/departments/nextsteps/>
Phone: 615.343.0822

“TigerLIFE” at The University of Memphis

TigerLIFE at The University of Memphis is a 2-year certification program for students with intellectual disabilities, providing individualized Programs of Study in the areas of education, social skills, and vocational training. The TigerLIFE program is administered by the University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID) whose purpose is to assist people with physical and developmental disabilities in finding meaningful and lasting employment.

University of Memphis Institute on Disability
C/o Dr. Chrisann Schiro-Geist
4050 South Park Loop
Bldg. 29, Room 119
University of Memphis
Memphis, TN 38152
Website: <http://www.memphis.edu/tigerlife/>
Phone: 901.678.4303

FUTURE: Postsecondary Education Program

The University of Tennessee FUTURE Postsecondary Education Program is designed as a 2-year nonresidential program culminating in a University of Tennessee FUTURE Program Vocational Certificate and job placement. The program will provide individualized academic, social, vocational, and independent living skills to student's ages 18-29 with intellectual disabilities and autism in eastern Tennessee who completed high school without earning a regular high school diploma.

Participation in the FUTURE Program will provide students with a local or regional option for continuing their education beyond high school to increase employment opportunities in the community.

University of Tennessee FUTURE Program
430 Claxton Complex
1122 Volunteer Boulevard
Knoxville, TN 37996-3452
Website: <https://futureut.utk.edu/>
Phone: 865.974.9176

IDEAL Program at David Lipscomb University

The IDEAL program at Lipscomb seeks to provide education and career development to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) while encouraging friendships and increased independent skills that lead to a better quality of life.

Students between the ages of 18-26 who have completed high school and have an intellectual or developmental disability (ID/DD) are encouraged to apply.

The IDEAL program is a two-year program that is designed to encourage and support students with ID/DD to experience college as their peers do. IDEAL students will take classes, go to sporting events, eat in the cafeteria, and enjoy just being a college student.

Next Steps at Vanderbilt University

Box 228 Peabody

Nashville, TN 37203

Website: <https://www.lipscomb.edu/education/special-programs/ideal-program>

Phone: 615-966-5098

Union University EDGE Program

The Union EDGE program is a two year, 48-hour Postsecondary Education Program for students between the ages of 18-26 with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD). This program is based on the Think College national standards. Graduating students will receive a 2-year certificate, not a degree.

Jennifer A. Graves, Director, The Union EDGE Program

School of Education, Union University

1050 Union University Drive

Jackson, Tennessee 38305

jgraves@uu.edu

Website: <https://www.uu.edu/programs/education/edge/>

Phone: 731.661.5382

8. Tennessee's Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

These Centers are funded to provide Information and Referral, Advocacy Services, Independent Living Skills, and Peer Support. The six Tennessee CILs are:

MEMPHIS CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

5100 Poplar Avenue, Suite 810

Memphis, TN 38137

Phone: 901.726.6404

Serves: Memphis proper and Shelby County

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/mcilaction/home>

JACKSON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

23 Federal Drive

Jackson, TN 38305

Phone: 731.668.2211

Serves: Madison, Crockett, Gibson, Carroll, Henderson, Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood Counties

Website: <http://www.j-cil.com/>

T.A.R.P. CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

1027 Mineral Wells Avenue, Suite 3

Paris, TN 38242

Phone: 731.644.0026

Serves: Benton, Decatur, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Montgomery, Obion, Perry, Stewart, and Weakley Counties

Website: <http://tarp1.org/index.htm>

EMPOWER TN (formerly Center for Independent Living of Middle TN)

955 Woodland Street

Nashville, TN 37206

Phone: 615.292.5803

Serves: Davidson, Cheatham, Wilson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner and Williamson Counties

Website: <https://empowertn.org/>

TRI-STATE RESOURCE & ADVOCACY CORP. (TRAC)

5512 Ringgold Road, Suite 102

Chattanooga, TN 37412

Phone: 423.892.4774

Serves: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties

Website: <https://1trac.net/>

disABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

900 East Hill, Suite 120

Knoxville, TN 37915

Phone: 865.637.3666

Serves: Knox County

Website: <http://drctn.org/>

9. Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder ("Pathfinder") provides free information, resources, support, and referrals to Tennesseans with disabilities and their families. Through three major program components, it provides information and resources to individuals of all ages, all types of disabilities, and language spoken.

Information and Referrals

Through a helpline and online database, Pathfinder connects individuals with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and service providers to appropriate community resources that suit their needs. Resources can be accessed by:

- Calling its toll-free statewide helpline at 800.640.4636. Staff is available to provide free assistance in English, Spanish, and Arabic as well as all other languages through the use of telephone interpretation services.
- Searching its free online database at www.familypathfinder.org.
- Navigating its online resource library that includes state and national resources on a wide range of topics.
- Checking its community calendar to find out what disability-related events are happening in your area each month. Events often include support group meetings, workshops, recreational activities, fundraisers, and many more types of activities.

Education and Training

- Pathfinder facilitates and participates in a variety of educational and outreach opportunities.
- Trainings/Presentations: Pathfinder staff provide innovative trainings and presentations at a variety of local and statewide workshops and conferences.
- Community Education Series: This training and lecture series is Pathfinder's opportunity to work with agencies in the Pathfinder Services Database to educate the public on a specific topic and to familiarize them with resources.

Multicultural Outreach Program

The program's mission is to remove the barriers that many culturally diverse communities find when trying to access disability resources. It also provides cultural awareness, education and training, and case management.

For more information, visit <https://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/pathfinder/>

10. The Employment and Community First CHOICES Program (ECF)

Employment and Community First CHOICES is for people of all ages who have an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD). This includes people who have significant disabilities.

Services help people with I/DD gain as much independence as possible. People are supported to live with their family or in the community, not in an institution. Residential services are available for adults with I/DD who do not live with family but need supports where they live.

Employment and Community First CHOICES can help the person with I/DD explore the possibility of working. Services can also help people learn skills for work, find a job, and keep a job. This could be a part-time job, a full-time job or self-employment. Working helps people earn money, learn new skills, meet new people, and play an important role in their communities. Work can also help people stay healthy and build self-confidence.

Other services help people learn and do things at home and in the community that help people achieve their goals. If a person lives at home with their family, the services help the family support the person to become as independent as possible. Services also help people get actively involved in their communities and include peer supports for the person and for their family.

For more information, visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tenncare/long-term-services-supports/employment-and-community-first-choices.html>

11. Tennessee Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE TN)

ABLE TN is a savings program designed to help Tennessee residents with physical and/or mental disabilities put aside money to pay for qualified disability expenses. These accounts provide an opportunity to save and invest with tax-free earnings to help participants maintain independence and quality of life. ABLE TN is administered by the Tennessee Treasury Department.

Who qualifies for an ABLE TN account?

An individual, whose blindness or disability occurred on or before the participant's 26th birthday, may qualify to open an ABLE TN account by meeting one of the following criteria:

1. Is eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
2. Is eligible to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or
3. Has been diagnosed by a qualified physician with a physical or mental disability resulting in marked and severe functional limitations that is expected to last no less than 12 months.

An individual not eligible to receive SSI or SSDI may qualify based upon an impairment found within one of the following lists:

1. Social Security Administrations List of Compassionate Allowances
2. Social Security Administrations List of Impairments for Adults (Part A)
3. Social Security Administrations List of Impairments for Children (Part B)

Any written diagnosis used to qualify for an ABLE TN account must be retained by the Designated Beneficiary or the Designated Beneficiary's Legal Representative and made available to ABLE TN or the IRS upon request.

What are the benefits of opening an ABLE TN account?

ABLE TN allows individuals to plan and save for future expenses associated with their disabilities. Interest earned on investments in an ABLE TN account is tax-free as long as the funds are withdrawn to cover the cost of qualified disability expenses.

Additionally, individuals may accumulate up to \$100,000 in an ABLE account without impacting eligibility for federal means-tested programs.

How to apply for an ABLE TN account

Visit the eligibility page <https://abletn.gov/eligibility.html> to answer the questions on ABLE Assist. After determining your eligibility, you will be prompted to open an account using our online portal.

For more information, visit <https://abletn.gov/index.html>.



Who we are and What we do:

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents, Inc. (STEP) is a statewide not-for-profit established in 1989 serving Tennessee families. We are Tennessee's PTI - Parent Training and Information Center.

WHO do we help?

Families or caregivers in Tennessee with children and youth, birth to 26, with a diagnosed or suspected disability or special healthcare/ mental health need. STEP believes parents and caregivers are a child's best advocate.

HOW do we help?

- Navigating special education laws
- IEP or 504 Plan review and assistance
- Workshops and in-person training
- Referrals to other agencies
- Life after high school planning
- Training videos and webinars
- Collaboration and communication
- Special education updates
- Services are FREE for Tennessee families

For more information:

Family & Youth Educator and Mentor/ Post-Secondary Transition Specialist

joey.ellis@tnstep.org

(615) 682-3120

West Tennessee

westrtc@tnstep.org

(901) 726-4334

Middle Tennessee

middlertc@tnstep.org

(615) 463-2310

East Tennessee

eastrtc@tnstep.org

(423) 638-5819

Español

(800) 975-2919

Business Office

712 Professional Plaza, Greeneville, TN 37745

information@tnstep.org

(423) 639-0125

Toll Free (TN residents)

(800) 280-7837

Fax

(423) 636-8217

Website: www.tnstep.org

You  Tube

www.youtube.com/user/TNStep



www.facebook.com/steptn

Youth Readiness Program Sponsor



Council on
Developmental Disabilities

The Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities is a state office that promotes public policies to increase and support the inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities in their communities.

The Council works with public and private groups across the State to find necessary supports for individuals with disabilities and their families, so that they may have equal access to public education, employment, housing, healthcare, and all other aspects of community life.

The Council encourages individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to play decision-making roles in policies and programs that affect them.



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